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L. H. M.
MIDDLEWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health



for the Year Ended 31st December
. . 1956 . .



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MIDDLEWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1956

To the Chairman and members of the Middlewich Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1956.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	...	...	...	...	...	1956 Acres
Population—Registrar-General's latest estimate of population	...	...	...	...	...	6880
Number of inhabited houses (end 1956)	...	...	...	...	...	2119
Rateable Value (1956)	...	...	...	...	...	£63.756
Sum represented by a penny rate (1956)	...	...	...	...	...	£251

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

Live Births—	Total	M	F
Legitimate	93	44	49
Illegitimate	7	3	4
Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population			14.53
After adjustment by the Comparability Factor			14.38
Still Births—	Total	M	F
Legitimate	3	3	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births			28.11
Deaths	Total	M	F
	77	36	41
Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population			11.19
After adjustment by the Comparability Factor			13.31
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—			
All infants per 1000 live births			10.00
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births			10.75
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births			—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) including of the lung			15
Deaths from Diphtheria			—
Deaths from Whooping Cough			—
Deaths from Influenza			—
Deaths from Pneumonia			—

The following table compares the main statistics for 1956 with the years 1945 - 1955—

Year		Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infants Death Rate	No. of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tuberculosis
1945	...	5926	21.26	11.47	55.55	11	2
1946	...	6206	21.10	9.82	22.90	8	2
1947	...	6372	27.46	11.45	40.00	11	3
1948	...	6576	19.60	9.12	23.81	10	1
1949	...	6587	14.70	9.41	10.30	10	3
1950	...	6672	17.38	11.99	51.72	9	1
1951	...	6696	16.27	11.49	27.52	14	1
1952	...	6798	15.59	10.58	18.86	14	-
1953	...	6813	16.87	10.86	-	23	1
1954	...	6840	14.32	10.67	30.61	16	-
1955	...	6830	13.61	11.42	10.75	15	-
1956	...	6880	14.53	11.19	10.00	15	-

CAUSES OF DEATH — 1956

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables)

						M.	F.	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms of	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	...	...	...	...	4	4	8
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

						M.	F.	Total
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	5	7	12
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	9	6	15
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
20.	Other heart diseases	...	...	...	...	3	9	15
21.	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	3	7	10
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTAL						36	41	77

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

for the Area

(A) Provided by the District Council

(1) Staff—

W. S. Slater, M.B.,CH.B. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health Hartford Hill Darwin Street Northwich Cheshire	(Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts and the County Council).
Clerical Staff	1 person (whole time)	(Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts)

F. Costello, A.R.SAN.I., Cert. S.I.B., Cert. Insp. of Meat and other Foods.	Whole-time Public Health Inspector Victoria Buildings Lewin Street Middlewich	(Middlewich Urban District only).
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(2) Laboratory Facilities—

The Public Health Laboratory Services in Manchester, which are provided free of charge to the Middlewich Urban District Council, proved adequate during the year. In addition, this service has co-operated in the transport of the samples from this area. Details of the samples and specimens are given later in the report.

(3) Environmental Services—

Details of the other Services, e.g. Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, etc., etc., provided by the Middlewich Urban District Council are recorded later in this report.

(B) Isolation Hospital Services

After March 31st, 1955, Davenham Isolation Hospital discontinued the admittance and treatment of cases of Infectious Diseases as accommodation was required for a Maternity Unit. This conversion, of course, necessitated the transport of infectious cases requiring hospital treatment to hospitals some miles away from their homes. It is, however, very gratifying to know that the Hospital still admits from the area a number of elderly chronic sick patients, as well as the maternity cases.

(C) Provided by the County Council

The Cheshire County Council have officers discharging duties in the Middlewich Urban Area under the following services :

School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare including Milk Food Sales, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures, Inspection, Specialist Services, e.g. Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Paediatric, Home and Domiciliary Midwifery Services, Speech Therapy, Residential and Temporary Accommodation, under the County Welfare Services, etc., etc.

In addition the Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee (under the auspices of the County Council) provided the following services :

(a) Vaccination and Immunisation Schemes—

The work done during the year 1956 in the Middlewich Urban District is detailed as follows :

Vaccination against Smallpox :

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	15
School Children	...	...	...	—
Adults	...	...	...	5

Diphtheria Immunisation :

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	16
School Children	...	...	...	2
Re-Immunised	...	...	...	52

Whooping Cough Immunisation :

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	—
School Children	...	...	...	—

Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation :

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	43
School Children	...	...	...	—

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis :

It is with great satisfaction that I am able to report the commencement during May, 1956 of the scheme for the vaccination of children born between 1947/54 against Poliomyelitis, a disease which can be one of the most crippling

Although only a limited amount of vaccine was available to treat about 10% of those children whose parents had consented to the treatment. A successful start was made in May, 1956, and by the end of the year, 36 Middlewich Urban District children had completed their course of protective treatment.

The interest shown by the Middlewich Urban parents in this new and somewhat untried field of preventive inoculation during 1956 can be summarised as follows :

Approximate number of Consent Cards distributed

to Middlewich Urban parents	...	...	...	872
Number of Consents received	...	...	...	249
(28.5%)				

(b) Sitting Case Car and Ambulance Service :

The service in the area continued to deal with Middlewich Urban Patients expeditiously and without serious complaint throughout the year.

(c) Prevention of Illness—Care and After-Care :

Nursing requisites and after-care equipment were loaned for the use of the sick and needy in a number of homes during the year.

(d) Domestic Help Service :

Domestic helps have been provided during 1956 in two households in the Middlewich area.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply :

The Town's Public Water Supply continued to be maintained in a satisfactory condition during the year. All houses in the district are now supplied from the mains and there are no stand-pipes, the houses having their own water taps.

Seven bacteriological reports on the town's supply have been furnished to me by the Engineer and Manager of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board, all of which proved to be satisfactory.

In addition, one sample of water taken by the Health Department and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination was reported upon satisfactorily.

The Council's Public Health Inspector reports—

“Closet Accommodation :

Two pail closets were converted to the water carriage system during the year leaving 30 pails and 4 privies still in use. All other houses have a separate water closet.”

“Refuse Collection and Disposal :

As in previous years I again have to report that with the growth of the district since the end of the war the Council will have to give consideration to either another refuse collecting vehicle or a much larger one than at present in order that we may obtain a weekly collection of refuse. This matter has been deferred from time to time and I think it policy to purchase a 16/18 cu. yard freighter and so enable a weekly collection of refuse to be given. The present 9 cu. yard Shelvoke and Drewry motor is now some ten years old and although in fair condition much time is lost

in its travelling to and from the refuse tip. A motor of the type mentioned would hold a half day's collection and so would save much time. Informal notices were compiled with the renewal of 83 dustbins. All refuse is disposed of at the Croxton Tip, which is ideally situated being away from properties.

Income from the sale of salvage amounted to £821/17/9 of which about £300 was profit."

"Camping Sites :

There are no camping sites or moveable dwellings licensed in the district."

"Destruction of Rats and Mice :

The Council employs a rodent operative under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector. There is insufficient work to warrant his services full-time, so he works part-time on other duties, Rodent Control taking priority.

During the year all Business and Private Premises were inspected and treatment given as required. Dwelling houses are treated free of charge. All infestations were of a minor character. A 10 per cent test baiting of the sewers showed them to be free from infestation. All factories and business premises have agreed to treatments being given, as required, and charges to be made."

"Smoke Abatement :

The long standing nuisance from the hand firing of salt pans has been much improved. As reported last year automatic stokers have been fitted at the Wych-house Lane Works with beneficial results. Unfortunately on occasions, the workmen concerned in producing salt, to speed up production, resort to the old hand firing with the resultant increase in smoke emission. These remarks also apply to the Pepper Street Works where similar stokers were fitted to all covered pans. During the year the Company concerned agreed to fit stokers to the open pans at the Pepper Street Works and also abolish the present Lancashire Boiler which is also hand fired and to install an electrification system in its place. The Company also agreed to fix stokers at Brooks Lane Works, but at the end of the year this work had not been commenced. Messrs. Murgatroyd's who also operate salt pans in Brooks Lane also agreed to fix automatic stokers and at the end of the year this work had been commenced. The position is much better than in previous years and if the workmen would desist from the occasional hand firing of pans, I am certain there would be little ground for complaints. During the year negotiations were commenced with the British Crepe Company with regard to the excessive emission

of black smoke from their boiler chimney. The company was advised to give consideration to the installing of a special automatic stoker, which in similar cases has given good results. At the end of the year tests were being made to ascertain if one such stoker could be fitted, and it appeared that it could."

" Fire Escape Certificates :

Three factories had their Fire Escape Certificates amended up to date during the year."

" Petroleum Storage :

Twenty-three licences were issued for the bulk storage of petroleum."

" Pet Animals Act, 1951 :

One Pet Shop is licensed under this Act."

S E C T I O N D

H O U S I N G

Provision of New Houses :

During the year, 19 permanent houses, including 2 by private enterprise, have been completed.

Five Year Slum Clearance Programme :

Of the 71 houses scheduled in 1955 for the " Five Year Programme " 16 were proposed to be dealt with during 1956. Of these 16 houses, 11 were demolished, leaving demolition orders on the remaining 5 houses, the tenants of which had not been re-housed. In addition, an informal closing order was agreed upon a Flat known as No. 2 Pepper Street, over shop premises, the tenant of which flat was re-housed by the Council. At the end of the year plans were being prepared to bring this living accommodation into satisfactory condition. It was also discovered that No. 54 Lewin Street, (not included in the above programme) was unfit for habitation. Representation was made in respect of this house, the tenant of which was re-housed by the Council. An offer by the owners to sell the property for road widening purposes was being investigated in conjunction with the County Council and Ministry of Transport. A further house, No. 6 Pinfold Lane, upon which notices had been served, was taken over by the Council, and certain repairs effected to give this house a further period of usefulness as a dwelling. In this same area the Council already owns a certain amount of land and property with a view to eventual re-development.

Housing Notices complied with :

Defective drains repaired...	...	...	3
Repairs to roof and spouting	...	...	4
Repairs to floors	...	...	6
Defective Closets	...	...	4
Dustbins renewed	...	...	83

FACTORIES INSPECTION

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	No. on Register	No. of		
		Inspec-tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	33	19	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	33	19	2	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp. (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not sep. for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL...	2	2	—	2	—

Outwork—Nil.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk—

Four dealers are licensed in respect of Pasteurised and T.T. Milks, but two of such dealers merely use licensed premises in the district, their milk deliveries being outside the Urban District. Another concern is issued with Supplementary Licences in respect of Pasteurised, Sterilised and Tuberculin Tested Milks. There is only one dealer in the area retailing milk which is ungraded.

During the year 17 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, with the following results—

Grade	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
	Satis.	Unsatis.	Satis.	Unsatis.
Pasteurised	8	—	8	—
Tuberculin-tested ...	2	2	—	—
Ungraded	1	1	—	—
T.T. Pasteurised ...	3	—	3	1

The dealers concerned are always informed of these results satisfactory or otherwise. Where unsatisfactory reports have been received in each case further investigation has been carried out with the result that subsequent samples have been shown to comply with the standard required.

3 samples were submitted to the Laboratory for examination for the presence of Tuberle Bacille, all with negative results.

(b) Meat—

Under this heading the Public Inspector reports as follows :

There is no Public Abattoir in the district. The Public Health Inspector made 418 visits on 225 days to inspect 2,839 cattle, 2,678 calves, 883 pigs and 227 sheep and lambs at the three licensed slaughterhouses. Two of the slaughterhouses are used mainly in connection with the wholesale and manufacturing trade. All were maintained in a cleanly condition. As in previous years a considerable amount of the Public Health Inspector's time was taken up with meat inspecting. It is pleasing to note that despite the large quantities of meat being distributed to other districts, not one complaint was received during the year from any other Authority. Mr. T. Baines, Senior Public Health Inspector of Northwich U.D.C. deputised for a fortnight at Meat Inspecting, during the holidays. The cattle slaughtered being mainly for manufacturing purposes are aged animals, which accounts for the

high percentage of condemnations. A total of 219 cattle, 15 calves, 7 pigs and 4 sheep were condemned, together with much offal, for the following reasons—

Cattle Condemned—

Tuberculosis (Generalised) ...	...	...	...	118
Oedema (Generalised) ...	...	...	...	61
Emaciation ...	...	...	...	11
Extensive Bruising ...	...	...	...	9
Cysticercosis ...	...	...	...	5
Insufficiently Bled ...	...	...	...	3
Uraemia ...	...	...	...	2
Fevered ...	...	...	...	2
Septicaemia ...	...	...	...	2
Acute Septic Pericarditis ...	...	...	...	2
Acute Septic Metritis ...	...	...	...	1
Actinomycosis (Generalised) ...	...	...	...	1
Anaemia ...	...	...	...	1
Multiple Tumours ...	...	...	...	1
TOTAL ...				<hr/> 219 <hr/>

Pigs Condemed—

Tuberculosis (Generalised) ...	...	...	...	2
Pyæmia ...	...	...	...	2
Fevered ...	...	...	...	3
TOTAL ...				<hr/> 7 <hr/>

Calves Condemed—

Joint-ill ...	...	...	...	6
Oedema ...	...	...	...	3
Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	2
Septicaemia ...	...	...	...	1
Bruising ...	...	...	...	1
Emaciation ...	...	...	...	1
Immaturity ...	...	...	...	1
TOTAL ...				<hr/> 15 <hr/>

Sheep Condemned—

Multiple Abscesses ...	...	...	...	1
Septicaemia ...	...	...	...	1
Bruising ...	...	...	...	1
Emaciation ...	...	...	...	1
TOTAL ...				<hr/> 4 <hr/>

In addition to the foregoing, whole carcasses which were condemned, the following parts and organs were also condemned :
Parts Cattle (Tuberculosis)—

Forequarters	42
Heads and Tongues	236
Lungs	402
Livers	18
Briskets	6

Other Diseases (Parts Cattle)—

Bruising	9 hindquarters
Bruising	4 forequarters
Heads and Tongues (Abscesses)	5
Head and Tongues (Actinomycosis)	6
Heads and Tongues (Cysticercosis)	13
Livers (Angioma)	391
Livers (Distomatosis)	447
Livers (Abscesses)	18
Livers (Cystic)	10
Livers (Cirrhosis)	5
Livers (Melanosis)	4
Livers (Necrosis)	4
Lungs (Cystic)	5
Kidneys (Nephritis)	163
Kidneys (Nephrosis)	6

Part Pigs (Tuberculosis)—

Heads	4
Livers	2

Parts Sheep—

Plucks (Parasitic)	6
---------------------------	---

**Table of Carcasses and Offal
Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part**

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	35	2804	2678	227	883	—
Number inspected	35	2804	2678	227	883	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	96	13	4	5	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	924	—	6	—	—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cyst- icerci	14.28 %	36.4 %	.49 %	4.4 %	.56 %	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned	1	117	2	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	543	—	—	6	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.86 %	23.54 %	.07 %	—	.9 %	—
<i>Cysticerosis:</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	13	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	5	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with cysticerci	—	.64 %	—	—	—	—

(c) Disposal of Unsound Food :

Condemned meat at slaughterhouses is stained green and allowed to be sold for animal feeding stuff. Condemned tinned foods etc. from shops are collected by Council workmen and disposed of on the refuse tip.

(d) Shops :

Condemnation notes were issued in respect of 134 lbs of frozen egg, 54 lbs. tinned ham, 20 lbs tinned corned beef, 30 lbs. tinned ox tongue, 2 tins of spam, 1 tin of jellied veal, 3 tins of beans, 3 tins of peas, 3 tins of beef steak, 8 tins of tomatoes, 14 lbs. of cake, 4½ lbs. butter.

(e) Ice Cream :

There is no ice cream manufactured in the district and the only ice cream sold is wrapped or in tubs, cartons, etc.

Eight samples of ice cream taken in the Middlewich Urban District proved satisfactory.

(f) Food Premises :

The undermentioned food premises are in existence in the Middlewich area—

Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	7
Licensed Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fish and Chip Shops	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fresh Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	1
(A number of grocers etc. also sell frozen fish)						
Chocolates and Sweets	...	...	...	...	...	8
Grocery Shops	...	...	...	...	...	32
(Many grocers also sell some greengrocery and sweets)						
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	7
(Most greengrocers also sell some grocery)						
Distributive Depot catering for confectioners	...					1
Chemists Shops	...	...	...	...	...	2
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	14
Clubs and Licensed Bars	...	...	...	...	...	3
Off Licences for sale of beer	...	...	...	...	...	2

Registered under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955

For retail sale of wrapped ice-cream	...	...	...	...	19
For retail sale of sausages, meat pies, etc.	...	...	...	...	14
Dairies registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949-54					
	...	...	...	...	2

All bakehouses were inspected and found to be satisfactory with regard to cleanliness and methods. Generally it was only possible at the end of the year to commence work under the Food Hygiene Regulations owing to other duties. However, work is proceeding and it should be possible within a few months to complete the necessary inspections.

Amongst improvements effected at Food Premises was the provision of a refrigerator at a large grocery shop and the provision of a sink and hot water at another. A more comprehensive report can be expected next year.

In addition, the following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Middlewich Urban District during the year 1956—

Nature of Sample				Number obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Asprin Tablets	...	...	...	1	—
Chemical Tonic (Cherry Flav.)	...	...	...	1	—
Chocstix	...	...	...	1	—
Humbugs	...	...	...	1	—
Ice Cream	...	...	...	2	—
Milk (fresh)	...	...	...	16	1
Pepper (White)	...	...	...	1	—
Rum	...	...	...	1	—
Tomatoes Soup (Cream of)	...	...	...	1	—
Whisky	...	...	...	1	—
Yeast Tablets	...	...	...	1	—
TOTAL				27	1

Particulars of Non-Standard Sample

Sample	Result of Analysis
Milk	Deficient in fat to the extent of 3.7%

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases

(1) No case of Infectious Disease was reported during the year.

Copies of reports on all pathological specimens submitted by the local doctors to the Manchester Public Health Laboratory are received by me. These are of great value in that immediate preventive measures can be put in hand by the Health Department.

(2) Tuberculosis :

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis :

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

During the year five pulmonary cases were admitted to and discharged from sanatoria.

Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years :

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
48	48	43	46	44	45	27	29	28	27	30	30

(3) B.C.G. Protection against Tuberculosis :

The B.C.G. Scheme, as reported in last year's report, was continued in 1956.

(4) Disinfection and Disinfestation :

Three houses were disinfected after infectious disease and nine houses were treated for infestation by bed bugs.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

July/August, 1957.

Hartford Hill,
Darwin Street,
NORTHWICH,
Cheshire.

